

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AHG MEETING, MAY 9, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE AHG APPROVED WITH MINOR EDITORIAL CHANGES A STATEMENT FOR DELIVERY BY THE NETHERLANDS REP AT THE PLENARY SESSION PLANNED FOR MAY 10. END SUMMARY.
2. THE BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSEN) REPORTED THAT INITIAL CONTACTS HAD BEEN MADE WITH THE POLES CONCERNING THE MAY 10TH PLENARY MEETING. THE EASTERN SIDE APPARENTLY HAD NOT YET HAD TIME TO MEET. THE BELGIAN REP HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EAST WAS STILL PLANNING ON A MAY 10TH PLENARY MEETING ALTHOUGH THEY MAY ASK FOR THE SESSION TO BE HELD IN THE AFTERNOON.

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3. AFTER A SHORT DISCUSSION INVOLVING EDITORIAL POINTS AND SEQUENCING OF PARAGRAPHS, THE TEXT OF THE WESTERN STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY NETHERLANDS REP (QUALRLES) AT THE PLENARY MEETING (MAY 10) WAS APPROVED. (TEXT SEPTEL) THE ONLY MATTER OF SUBSTANCE DISCUSSED CONCERNED US REP'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THE STATEMENT BE REVISED TO CONCENTRATE ON CALLING FOR PRIORITY CONSIDERATION OF ONE KEY ISSUE -- WHAT COUNTRIES SHOULD REDUCE FORCES INITIALLY. (THE DRAFT APPROVED BY THE DRAFTING GROUP HAD SUGGESTED TWO KEY ISSUES FOR PRIORITY ATTENTION -- WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED INITIALLY AND WHAT FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED.) US REP SAID MAKING SECOND POINT COULD RESULT IN INOPPORTUNE REVIVAL OF DISCUSSION OF NUCLEARS. THE US REP'S SUGGESTION WAS ADOPTED.

4. THE AHG APPROVED THE CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL THAT US REP, US DEP REP, NETHERLANDS REP AND FRG REP (BEHREND) BE THE WESTERN REPS TO THE FIRST INFORMAL SESSION WITH THE EAST ON MAY 15.

5. THE AHG ALSO APPROVED THE CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSAL THAT CANADIAN REP (GRANDE) SERVE AS RAPPORTEUR, ACCOMPANIED BY NETHERLANDS REP AND DANISH REP, IN MAKING NEXT REPORT TO THE NAC ON MAY 31.

6. FRG REP MENTIONED A GDR RADIO BROADCAST ON THE STATUS OF THE MBFR TALKS. THE BROADCAST, OVER "RADIO PEACE AND PROGRESS", STATED THAT MODES PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE AND THAT THE US WAS TAKING A MORE REALISTIC STANCE THAN ITS ALLIES, NOTABLY THE UK, BENELUX COUNTRIES, AND THE FRG, "NONE OF WHOM HAD THUS FAR GIVEN AN INDICATION OF ANY INTENTION TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES."

7. NETHERLANDS REP REPORTED THAT DURING HIS FOREIGN MINISTER'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW, A SOVIET OFFICIAL HAD REVEALED TO THE ACCOMPANYING DUTHC PRESS SOME OF THE CONTENT OF THE WESTERN MBFR PROPOSAL, SPECIFICALLY CITING THE PORTION INVOLVING THE PROPOSED REDUCTION OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY. THE NETHERLANDS REP STATED THAT THIS INFORMATION HAD APPEARED IN THE NETHERLANDS PRESS.

8. THE NEXT AHG MEETING WAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO FOLLOW THE PLENARY ON FRIDAY, MAY 10. HUMES

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